

Over the past year, the **Fiscal Services Department** has undertaken numerous tasks, dedicated to the mission of providing sound financial management with the highest degree of financial integrity and accountability.

Over the past year, Seminole County enjoyed economic stability due to the health and resiliency of our County and to the conservative manner in which our budget was formulated. During the period of economic decline, Seminole County received the highest bond ratings available and ranks among the highest counties in the state for bond credit ratings.

The Purchasing and Contracts Division gained statewide and national recognition as one of the premier purchasing agencies in the Country. Awards that we received included the National Purchasing Institute Inc., for "Achievement of Excellence"; National Institute of Governmental Purchasing for "Outstanding Agency Accreditation Achievement" and Florida Association of Public Purchasing Officers "2003 Award for Excellence in Public Procurement". We have tapped new sources of supply that bring competition and best value to the procurement process, and partnered with industry to foster business relationships that are mutually beneficial to both parties. Our Purchasing policies and procedures reflect current laws and statutes as well as the innovative changes we have made to purchasing processes. The County has completed a successful reverse auction saving several thousand dollars. We are unique among purchasing agencies to have developed an on-line vendor notification and registration system that consist of over 2,300 vendors. This supports the e-mail notification of procurement information in a streamlined, efficient and effective manner.

This year marks the first year of our two-year budget cycle. With the assistance and cooperation of County management, County departments, and Constitutional Officers, the **Budget Division** coordinated the process of budget development over Fiscal Years 2003/04 and 2004/05. We have met our goals for this budget process which were: A) Improve long-range and strategic planning by considering program and budget needs over a longer

horizon. B) Link operating and capital spending through detailed budgets over a minimum of two years. C) Reduce staff time dedicated to budget development in the second year of the budget cycle and redeploy staff to other critical functions and activities. Through this process and in the midst of a declining economy, we are proud to have maintained our very stable financial condition. We received the Government Finance Officers Association Distinguished Budget Presentation award for the 9th consecutive year and for submitting a two-year budget document.

On a daily basis, the **MSBU Program** continues to provide neighborhoods and communities in unincorporated areas of the County with opportunities to acquire essential improvements and services. The MSBU Program web site received a major design update this past year to enhance on-line information and customer service. One of the on-line customer service features now available is the "Solid Waste Change in Service Level Request" form which enables customers participating in the Solid Waste Collection and Disposal district to make service level change requests on line. The Non-Ad Valorem Notice was also updated to enhance property owner awareness, understanding and response to the information offered in this annual notice. In the forthcoming year, the MSBU Program will be evaluating programming alternatives that will yield improved efficiencies in computerized records and data generation.

Grants Management, the newest section of this department, is the organizational unit devoted to carrying out the task of grants development and management. Its primary functions involve locating external funding sources, developing project ideas, preparing grant proposals, communicating and negotiating with the funders, monitoring funded projects, and seeking continued funding. The greatest challenge lies in coordinating all of these activities that keeps the grants mission focused on the needs and priorities of the County.

Fiscal Services remains committed to both our internal and external customers and looks forward to developing new processes which will easily facilitate our services.